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Fiedler N. 1240

**IS ENGLISH DESTINED
TO BECOME THE
UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE
OF THE WORLD?**

**AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
FOR OBTAINING
THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF GÖTTINGEN
BY
W. BRACKEBUSCH.**

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THE MITCHELL
GLASGOW

The British Empire embraces an area of eight and a half millions of square miles with a population of 220 millions, while the United States of America contain three and a quarter millions of square miles and thirty-five millions of inhabitants, so that the sway of English-speaking men extends over nearly a quarter of the land portion of the globe, and nearly a quarter of the human race. The immense territories composing these two gigantic empires consist in Europe of the British Isles, Heligoland, Gibraltar and the Maltese group; Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold-Coast, the Cape, Natal, Kaffraria, Mauritius, Admirantes, the Seychelles, St. Helena and Ascension in Africa; and Hongkong, Aden, Hindoostan, Ceylon and parts of further India in Asia; the whole of the continent of North-America, Mexico excepted, with the Islands belonging to it and the Bermudas, Honduras, Guiana, the Falkland Islands with a considerable portion of the Westindias in America; Australia, Tasmania, New-Zealand, Auckland, the Norfolk Islands and Labuan in Oceania.

The very array of names, not a few of them standing for districts, in comparison with which the largest countries of Europe dwindle into insignificance, is amply sufficient to point out the importance of a race that owns possessions so vast and subjects so numerous.

England manufactures articles for the consumption of half the human race and sends them to their destination

in her own ships, bringing back such raw material and food as her own markets require. Her exports and her imports are worth each two hundred millions of Pounds a year, and eighty thousand vessels of twenty millions of tons burden enter and clear her harbours annually.

She keeps an army as brave as ever fought a foe and numbering four hundred thousand men distributed over her various colonies and dependencies; and her navy, still the first in the world, does what a great Dutch admiral only boasted — she sweeps the sea. —

Her sons are unsurpassed in physical and mental strength, in tenacious persistency of purpose — that secret of success in incorrupt morality and firm religious convictions. Her unrivalled internal communication, her easy connection with her own possessions, her constant intercourse with other nations — by rail and road, steamboat and telegraph — keep up the conscious sense of nationality in her children, which is still strengthened by a great history, a great literature, in the past and in the present, and by a constitution, which as it has grown out of the wants of the people, not manufactured for it or forced upon it, has long served as an ideal for political reformers on the Continent, and makes the land an abode of freedom and of justice.

In all these characteristics of a powerful and rising nation England is rivalled only by her overgrown daughter, the United States of America, who, in energy and education superior to the mothercountry, have already outstripped her in population and will perhaps at a not distant period distance her in some others also of her attributes of greatness and prosperity. And, as the language of the two huge empires is the same, the consideration of that circumstance can only increase the sense of its importance. —

Yes, the English language is heard in every clime, in the manufactories and warehouses of Britain, the bustling cities in the east, the backwoods and the clearings in the West of North-America as well as in the icebound forts of its vast northern wildernesses; it resounds in the diggings of California and Australia and on the sheepwalks of New-Zealand and the Cape; it reëchoes from the West Indian sugar and the East Indian opium plantation; it is heard in the loghut of that pioneer of civilisation, the settler, on every rich and untilled soil that tempts the tiller's plough, it is heard in the dwelling of the missionary among a hundred tribes, it is heard in the crowded cities of continental Europe, it breaks the silence of the highest Alpine or Himalaya peaks, it is heard on the ruins of every city that was renowned in Italy or Greece or Palestine, on the summit of the Great Pyramid, in the depths of the excavations of Niniveh, it rings along the wharves and quays of every seaport-town within the Universe, and — more than that — it rings over every sea that carries keel of wood or iron, and from innumerable ocean-fortresses its greeting hail is answered by a hail in kindred speech. It was in English Chaucer and Shakespere wrote and Milton; and Gibbon and Macaulay and Carlyle are Englishmen. The English literature of the day contains the soundest morality, uncorrupted by irreligious tendencies, it embodies the highest results of science in the most popular form at the lowest price to the greatest public; its daily press is unrivalled for the copiousness of the information it conveys, the sound sense of its leaders, the moderation of its language, the immensity of the circulation of its products and the minuteness of their price.

Independently of this the English language is the easiest in the world; it contains so many German, French

and Latin words, that most European nations find a part of their own language reproduced in it and thus have the task of acquisition materially diminished. It has a strong tendency to become monosyllabic, and the ease of pronunciation grows, of course, as well as the ease of remembrance in direct proportion to the shortness of the words; it has but few inflections and those very simple, and its syntax is a very pattern and model of clearness and simplicity.

What, then, can prevent its becoming sooner or later the universal language of humanity; in a time when intercommunication is so rapid, when the links that unite distant peoples are drawn so close, when time and space are annihilated by the great discoveries, that will ever characterise this century as the epoch of inventions? Surely, the time is not far distant, when all the human race, united in strong brotherhood by unity of religion and of thought, will add to these encircling bonds the unity of speech, and that speech will be English!"

Such are the powerful and striking arguments and inferences arrived at from incontestable facts, that may, with several others of less importance, be heard daily, that are brought forward not only by Englishmen and Americans, but by intelligent and thoughtful men of many nations and in the publications of many countries; this is the strong and dazzling chain of reasoning, that I now intend — as far as is within my humble power — to examine link by link, confirming the statements that I find correct, and refuting the conclusions arrived at, where I deem them hasty or illogical. For this purpose I shall have to give a short sketch of the great historical languages of civilisation, that successively have held sway over a large portion of thinking humanity and give a short synopsis of the great languages now spoken.

In doing so I cannot notice the conglomeration of territories brought about by individual conquerors and dismembered after their death, nor of remote and distant empires in other continents, nor the incursions of barbarian hordes in civilised countries, whose speech, if their conquests were permanent, always was exchanged for that of the conquered; I shall therefore pass over in silence the great Babylonian, Assyrian, Persian and Medo-Persian Empires, though the latter, in particular, exceeded the Roman in extent, not speak of Tartars, Huns and Turks, nor mention Alexander, Charles the Great, Charles V and Napoleon, as the nations governed by their sceptre had not the common bond of language, but of ruler only. —

This survey of the languages that have either by the extent of the area of their geographical distribution or by the masterpieces of thought composed in them established a claim as the leading languages of the world, will facilitate our understanding the position, which the English language now occupies.

The language of Greece, a parallel branch with that of Italy from the common indo-germanic trunk, of which the Celtic, Teutonic and Slavonic tongues are more distant offshoots, spread from its original seats, which besides modern Greece embraced a considerable part of what is now called Turkey, in the earliest times to Asia minor, later to the numerous colonies that dotted both shores of the Mediterranean, including Italy, Sicily and perhaps the South of France; while the great Alexander opened for it a boundless vista of extension in the East, and though his stupendous realm was disintegrated after his early death, Greek made its way in Syria and to some extent in Egypt.

In consequence of the mercantile connections of the Greeks and their superior genius, which conquered the

Roman conquerors, it not only continued to keep, but extended its influence until the destruction of the Western Empire, led a precarious existence in the Eastern up to the taking of Constantinople by the Turks, when it became extinct as a civilised language, for a time at least, in its own hearth, while about the same period the study of its classic treasures revived in Italy, Germany, France, Holland, England.

The Greek language richer in forms and structure, in power of combination and in variety of expression, blending strength and dignity, tenderness and subtility, grandeur and sarcasm into one accord of glorious and harmonious sound, has among all the vicissitudes of fate kept its distinguishing characteristics intact and though three thousand years have not passed bey, without effecting changes in pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar, to all intents and purposes Greek is a living language still though narrowed in its dimensions and importance to a mere shadow of its former self. The empire which the Greek language obtained was founded on intellectual, not material causes, not on the geographical extent of the Empire of the Greeks, but on its own euphonious beauty, strength and elegance, on the intellectual superiority of the nation. The most flourishing period of Greek literature and the widest dissemination of the language are by no means contemporaneous; when Alexander conceived the idea of founding an Eastern Empire the heroes of Greek literature were departed never to return and in the first and second century of our era, when it obtained its widest geographical dimensions, the language had degenerated like the nation and its former spirit was as dead as that of the national independence. Without taking into consideration the powerful influence it now exercises over ideas and thoughts,

by being a subject of study for all persons enjoying the advantages of classical education, it enters on account of its plastic ease of form largely into the vocabularies of all civilised nations especially with regard to scientific terms.

The language of the Romans, twin sister of the Greek, has played in the worlds history a part hardly less important than the Romans themselves. Though by no means coextensive with that empire, that for centuries embraced all Europe west and south of Danube and Rhine, the North Coast of Africa and the West of Asia, it became in course of time the spoken language of a very considerable part of its provinces and is the root of modern Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Wallachian (or Roumain). And as were it not sufficient that East and West-Goths, Allemans, Franks, Longobards and Burgundians should each and all adopt the speech of the nation they conquered, the Latin tongue achieved a greater conquest; she became a second time the mistress of the world by becoming the language of the Church. In consequence of this she was not only throughout Christendom the language of the ritual, as she is now throughout that Church that still is called the *Roman-Catholic*; but as in the troubled times of the early middle ages the clergy alone in Europe were wardens of science, of arts and of literature, she reigned for ages paramount in all the scientific branches of the human intellect, which reign she extended to the „Schools“, when Universities and other seats of learning became independent institutions; nor is her reign for original productions by the learned of Europe, though greatly on the wane, quite over even now. The importance of the Latin tongue and its extension were due to the dominion of the Latin race,

the literary treasures it contains and to its perspicuity, force and simplicity in sound, if not in structure. The influence which Latin has exercised and still exercises on the languages of all Europe, even those which are in no way derived from it, by being a principal element of liberal education, by offering in the Roman Law an ever necessary study for the jurist and the historian, by bequeathing us the standard authors of history and eloquence, can never be too highly estimated, though Latin now be dead. The Latin of Antiquity died from decay, accelerated by the multifarious barbarian elements, the Latin of the Middle ages, the language of the Pope and of the Schools was killed by Luther.

Our attention is next engaged by the Arabian language, the offspring of the desert, coextensive or nearly so at one time with the Arabian Empire, spread by enthusiastic devotees who, within a century after the Hedgira, the sword in one hand and the Koran in the other, overran the South of Asia and the North of Africa gaining a firm footing even in Europe.

The sway of the Arabic language, at the period of its greatest extension, reached from the Ganges to Narbonne and it served as a vehicle for the boldest thought and the most careful observation in Mathematics, Medicine and Natural Science, that existed during the Middle-ages. The realm of the Arabs had long been splintered into numerous independent fragments, when their language was still dominant in the disintegrated portions. In Europe, where the progress of their material power was checked by Charles Martell, the revival of classical studies and the hatred of a Christian population against the Moslemis opposed its influence. It is however by no means an extinct language, as it is the idiom of Arabia, Egypt, Mesopotamia, Barbary,

parts of Nubia, Persia, spoken by more than thirty millions of men; understood and paramount, wherever the faith of the Islam prevails; it has exercised a lasting influence on the language of Spain and forms a large ingredient of the „lingua franca“. Besides the sacred Koran it contains large treasures of poetry history and science in its literature.

Looking next at the Italian language, with French and Spanish a direct descendant of the Latin, of which it is the purest representative, we find it bursting forth in a rich blossom of literary excellence first of the modern languages of Europe, at the time when the maritime republics of Italy were the principal mediators of the trade with the East and the greatest emporiums of mercantile enterprise in the world; at the time when classical studies revived at its great seats of learning, and arts and sciences flourished through the length and breadth of the land. With the discovery of America, that destroyed its trade, — a punishment inflicted upon the country by an unappreciated son of Italy and of genius — and in consequence of the Reformation, preceded and accompanied as it was by a general revival of letters and development of the modern stage of European languages, which to a great extent destroyed its religious influence, the language of Italy lost its importance with reference to the great states of Europe; and, whether the reconstruction of the „geographical idea“ Italy into an entity be a real resurrection to political life, or only a galvanic spasm that assumes its semblance, it cannot be doubtful, that the enervated though polished speech of an effeminate but accomplished nation, which requires a moral before it can hope for a lasting political regeneration, will never again exercise a powerful influence beyond its own borders. Italian is the typical language of progress for the fourteenth and fifteenth century; it is at present spoken

by about 25 millions of people in Italy and the islands of the Mediterranean and enters very largely into the composition of that dialect, which under the name of *lingua franca* is in use in many tradingplaces on the eastern coasts of that sea. It still retains throughout Europe its place as the language of music, for which by its striking preponderance of vowel sounds and consequent almost weakly euphony it is particularly qualified; it is not unfrequently studied as an elegant accomplishment.

In turning over the pages of history we next find the Spanish Empire the largest and most powerful, and its language spreading in proportion. . We cannot take account of the extent of the realm at the time of Charles V., because his being emperor of Germany, at the same time as monarch of the Spanish dominions and the Netherlands, was an accident that terminated with his abdication; but Philip his son commanded still an empire in which the sun never set, and if we leave out of consideration what little influence he had in England during the life of Mary, his wife, and lost after her death, in the Netherlands, which he lost, his Italian and Sicilian possessions, in which the native idiom remained in the ascendant; he yet was powerful on the coast of Africa; Peru and Mexico as well as the West-Indias were subject to his sway, and have with many other rich colonies remained appendages of the Spanish crown partly until the second decad in this century, partly till now. Although the Spanish language therefore spread over and is still spoken in Mexico, Central and a great part of South-America, besides the Spanish colonies of Cuba, Portorico etc., the Canaries, Philippines and Ladrone-Islands, as well as in the mother country, although we may still higher estimate its former importance, if we consider, that, if politically separated the Spa-

niards and Portuguese speak dialects of the same tongue, which 300 years ago did not present points of distinction sufficiently marked to class them as different languages, and if we consider, that at the same time the kingdom of Portugal embraced numerous settlements in Africa, East-India and Brazil besides many of the colonies it now possesses, that its political and mercantile importance was inferior only to that of Spain, that its language is still spoken by ten millions of people, who cover geographically nearly the tenth part of the earth's surface, although, I repeat, forty millions of men still speak the Spanish language, and although then Spain was the mistress of the sea, and its influence preponderating over the whole of the newly discovered continent, how little influence has it exercised over civilised Europe! Though possessing a sonorous, refined and expressive language, nearest akin in dignity to Latin, Spain, which had given birth to Martial, Lucan, Seneca and perhaps to Quintilian, has since the modern development of her language not given us those treasures of science, eloquence and thought, that other nations have bestowed upon us, because in refusing the Reformation she refused the concomitant freedom of thought and of expression; her immense riches, acquired without labour, destroyed the energy of the people, and worked the moral ruin of the nation which was necessarily followed by the physical ruin of the country, and still keeps the masses in a hopeless state of degradation. — For the latter half of the sixteenth and the first of the seventeenth century it was the most rising language in the world; then we see French rising into importance.

Raised to an unexampled state of splendour, unsubstantial and unsatisfactory as it was, the French court at

the time of Louis XIV., in conjunction with a brilliant literature, dazzled the other courts of Europe and excited them to envious admiration and imitation; its speech ere long became the symbol of good breeding and of elegance, the language of diplomacy, supplanted the vernacular among the higher, if not the better classes, in Germany, the northern states of Europe, and, to some extent, in England and in Italy, and in manifold distortions penetrated even to the lowest strata of society. As every action causes a reaction, opposition was not wanting, and purgers of the language endeavoured, in Germany more particularly, to resist French influence in which attempts they were powerfully seconded by the French Revolution, which annihilated court and the upper ten thousands, and the rising into the highest place in Europe of German literature, and which was finally achieved when the overbearing ambition of the first Napoleon awakened the spirit of nationality, that, once roused, hurled him into perdition and gave the „coup de grace“ to that Gallomania, that had so long been rampant in most states of Europe. As the Greek language was the language of genius, Latin and Spanish that of conquerors, Arabian the tongue of religious enthusiasm, so French was the language of courts and of „polite society“. Its importance ceased with that of courts, that were supplanted by the reign of nations, and with that of hereditary aristocracy, the place of which is taken or disputed for by the power of genius and of capital. The French language had however, and still has, high claims to distinction by its crystalline clearness and precision, its systematic regularity of construction, and, generally speaking, the ease with which it is acquired by foreigners of all nations; yet it is in my opinion not fated to extend its influence, if it keeps its ground: because the military greatness of France

was caused by her unity and the division of her neighbours, and though France has not been divided, the other states have also become consolidated; because the French nation does not materially increase in number; because neither is French literature superior to others, nor the material resources of the Empire even equal; because the French are individually and collectively bad settlers, and have not been particularly successful with any of their colonies; because they are but indifferent sailors. French is at present still extensively taught in schools, though English is rising up as a formidable rival against it on the Continent, German in England; it still is the language of diplomacy, and reigns in ball-room, kitchen and in gambling-hells. — It is the idiom, besides part of the Russian aristocracy, of 45 millions of men in France, Belgium Switzerland, Lower Canada, the Channel-Islands, the United States and the French colonies in Asia, Africa, America and Oceania.

Turning next to the heart of Europe, we find a race possessed of all the qualities requisite to make it a leader among nations, with a speech of great power and beauty; and which, notwithstanding, on account of internal division and dissension, that often made her children the tools of crafty neighbours in working out their own interests, has hitherto not taken her due place in the council of nations; and whose language is only now beginning to be appreciated and studied abroad. — This German language is an independent branch of the Caucasian stock; after passing through the various stages of Gothic, old and Middle-High-German and throwing off many vigorous shoots, of which the English is by far the most important and flourishing, one of its dialects, High-German, has superseded, as language of the educated and of literature, the Low-German,

in direct consequence of Luther's translation of the Bible into that dialect. It is at present spoken in Germany, whether called North-, South or Austrian, the greater part of Switzerland, in Alsace, Baltic Russia, Pennsylvania, New York State, Maryland, Virginia and numerous western states of North America, in parts of Upper Canada, the Lower British provinces and Australia by more than 50 millions of people. Rich in vocabulary, in forms and power of combination, though guttural in sound, richer in the possession of a galaxy of names of such radiant brightness as adorn the heaven of German literature, this tongue of a nation unsurpassed by any in the highest sphere of human intellect as well as in patient and useful industry, perseverance and bravery; of a nation whose mercantile marine is even now inferior in Europe only to that of Great Britain and whose future importance in the destiny of nations it would require a bold man to circumscribe with limits, this language, I say, even if it should not become widely prevalent to the extermination of other tongues, will never be superseded by English or any other form of speech.

It remains, to add a few words about the languages of those Empires, that attract our regard by the immensity of their area or the number of their inhabitants rather, than by the importance of the languages when dissociated from those accessories, as they present no great historical past nor flourishing literature in the present. The Russian dominions, but little inferior to those of England, of more than eight millions of square-miles, the recent sale of the American possessions being compensated by recent conquests in Central Asia — cover a sixth nearly of the land that forms the surface of the globe. But this immense territory contains a population of less than 70 millions. and after deducting from this number the millions that speak

the Polish, Finnish, Livonian, Lithuanian, German, and Daco-Roman tongues in Europe, and the various forms of barbaric speech prevailing among the multifarious tribes that people the Asiatic portion of the Empire, we arrive at the result, that of this number about 45 millions speak the Russian language, if we consider its four leading dialects, Russian proper, Little Russian, White Russian and Rusniack as modifications of the same language. Like all slavonic idioms the Russian excels most other forms of speech in Europe in copiousness of vocabulary, richness of form and in euphony. Many impartial thinkers have arrived at the conclusion that the Russian nation, with its virgin energy, its immense, though undeveloped resources, will at no distant period play a leading part, or the leading part, in the world's history; and that consequently its language will be spread far beyond the confines that now enclose it, for which purpose it does not seem ill adapted, though not presenting a rich literature to the student, or an easy task to the learner. —

The Chinese Empire with its area of about five and a half millions of square miles, and its population of at least 350 millions of inhabitants, is with all its dependencies peopled by tribes of the Mongolian race and an overwhelming majority of its inhabitants, certainly more than one third of all men on earth use the Chinese language, which belongs to that section of Mongolian tongues, that like the languages of Further India, Bhotan and Tibet, are monosyllabic, uninflected and ideographic i. e. not expressing the sounds but the sense of the words; and it consequently employs for each word a separate sign or combination of signs. These signs are originally only of the number of about twohundred, but their combinations amount to more than thirty thousand, which, of course, are no

more required for the intercourse of daily life, than the thirty or forty thousand words found in the dictionaries of several European languages. The acquisition of the written language is therefore so difficult, and such a work of time, that in that country, where education, such as it is, opens the road to every distinction, but few individuals are found who profess an entire mastery over it. This cause alone would prevent the spreading of the language out of the bounds of the Empire, and it is a difficulty that cannot be removed, because Chinese is one language only in its literature and in its ideographic character; the spoken tongues exceed fifty in number all over the Empire and amount to nearly twenty in China proper. The differences we cannot say of dialect, are so great, that no native of one province can understand the speech of that of another, although they can converse by written characters; and it must be added besides, that even in the same locality a different tone of voice gives to the same combination of sounds, to what is phonetically the same word, the most widely different and incongruous meanings. If to these purely linguistic grounds be added the consideration of the peculiar character of the people, who have remained stationary in their civilisation for thousands of years, who have invented printing-for ideologic word-signs, the compass only to travel by land and gunpowder for fireworks, who in short have made great inventions and discoveries ages ago without being able to utilise them, like certain apes in Africa were said to build houses, imitating man, and then live on the outside of them, it will be conceded that the Chinese have but very little chance of extending their language by superseding the tongues of Europe.

So we arrive at length at the subject of our enquiry, the English language. It is a branch of the Teutonic stock,

brought by the Anglo Saxons to its present location during the 5th and 6th century of our era; it entirely superseded the Celtic speech that preceded it, as the Saxons exterminated or banished the entire population of the conquered districts. It underwent the changes that have befallen most languages of Europe, which however in this case were still increased by the constant inroads of the Norsemen (Danes) and by the Norman conquest. It would be an entirely erroneous supposition however, to consider English as a mixed language. The character of a language is determined by its grammar, not its dictionary; in the same manner as a building is called Gothic or Byzantinic, not after the material employed in its construction, but after the manner of arranging and joining those materials. And the grammar of the English language is entirely Saxon; of the words too, that are derived from foreign sources, Latin particularly, partly by direct introduction and partly through the channels of the Norman and the modern French, a comparatively limited number only are required for the intercourse of common life; and those were even fewer in centuries gone by. After passing through the Anglo-Saxon, Old and Middle English periods we enter with Chaucer upon modern English. The different stages of the language are marked by loss of inflection and destruction of clear vocalisation, as well as by the admission of many foreign words. Modern English is characterised by the loss of cases for nouns and adjectives (except for the possessive case) the almost entire disappearance of different plural-terminations, which are supplanted by *s*, the reduction of flexional endings for the verb *to* *ot* in the (almost disused) second person singular of the present and past tenses, and the *s* in the third person singular of the present, and the absence of any form for infinitive, imperative

and subjunctive moods, which are identical with the first person of the present. The language in its present state is expressive and graphic in character, but its sounds are harsh and hissing, its accent is anomalous to a high degree and its orthography is a bewildering maze (as I shall more fully show below). It has had in Epic and Dramatic Poetry, in History, Natural Philosophy and Metaphysics, in Divinity, Medicine and Proseworks of fiction, representatives, some of them unequalled by any writer ancient or modern, and many successfully entering the lists against rival nations. The time of Queen Ann is by English writer frequently represented as the culminating point — the classic period of English literature, but when we consider that her two greatest Authors, that Shakespere and Milton flourished considerably before that period, we shall perhaps be justified in assigning its acme to an earlier era.

Having thus glanced over the history we turn to the extension of the English language. The British and American Empires number more than 260 millions of inhabitants; but not the fourth part of them speak English. Turning first to the British Empire we find that even its European possessions harbour numerous distinct idioms. Of ancient Celtic speech we find the three distinct branches Gaelic in the Highlands of Scotland, Welsh in Wales and Erse in Ireland spoken by fourhundred thousand, eight-hundred thousand and three millions respectively; and if we do not consider Lowland-Scotch as a separate language, as some authorities do, but as a dialect, we still find French spoken in the Channel Islands, (Frisian) German in Heligoland, Spanish in Gibraltar, Italian and spoiled Arabic in the Maltese group. Deducting these from the thirty millions of inhabitants which Britain in Europe numbers, we have 25 millions left for the English speaking population.

To the African possessions of which only the Cape, Natal, Mauritius and a few smaller islands can be called colonies, the rest being dependencies rather; after making due allowance for the Dutch settlers in South-Africa, the French in Mauritius, and the natives that speak their own language, everywhere; we can not assign more than 200,000 people that speak English at the most liberal estimation. British America, in extent nearly one half of the Empire and about the size of Europe, contains, including the British Westindias, little more than 5 millions of inhabitants, of which three and a half at most employ the tongue of England, as there are nine hundred thousand French settlers in Lower Canada, that have preserved their native speech, German settlements in Upper Canada and some of the Lower Provinces, (Lüneburg) while Celtic is heard in different localities, and there are besides the native Indians, though not numerous; in some of the West-Indian Isles Spanish is also still spoken. British Oceania, though at least 3 millions of square miles in extent, has an English-speaking population of 2 millions only. The native Australians and the Maoris of New Zealand, even if added to the German settlers, are not sufficiently numerous to make a considerable reduction from this number. In the British dependencies in Asia, at last, with their million and a half of square miles and 185 millions of people, there are including Aden and Hongkong as well as the British Garrisons throughout Hindoostan and the Tenasserim, 200,000 English at most. Summing up then we find that in the British Empire the English language is spoken in

Europe by	25 millions
Africa . .	200,000
America . .	3,500,000
Oceania . .	2,000,000
Asia . .	200,000

Total 30,900,000

About 31 millions, that is less than the seventh part of Queen Victoria's subjects speak her language.

The United States have a population of 35 millions. But of these more than three millions, in the states previously mentioned, speak German, a million in different localities use celtic forms of speech, while the French in Louisiana, Missouri, Indiana, the Spaniards in Texas, Florida and California and the independent Indians amount at least to another million, which leaves thirty millions for the English language. Adding this number to the total for the British Empire we arrive at the result that English is the speech of 61 millions of men; and on comparing this result with the amounts obtained for other European nation — we omit China with its hundreds of millions, for reasons previously stated, from our consideration — we find that

Russian	{ is spoken by about }	45 millions of men
French	"	45 " " "
Spanish	"	40 " " "
German	"	52 " " "
English	"	61 " " "

that the difference between the two lastnamed languages in particular and between English and any one of them in fact, is not sufficiently considerable to warrant the assumption that it could supersede any, much less all of them, unless indeed it be shown, that it possesses in a high de-

gree the power of absorbing the speech of the nations, with which it is brought in contact. That such is, however, not the case; that it has not hitherto spread so rapidly as to let us arrive at the conclusion of its early future greatness from its lately past insignificance, may already have been gleaned from some of the previously made statements; and I will endeavour to justify the refusal of that opinion by a few additional facts. Except Italian, the oldest of modern languages in its present shape, the English language has been developed to the highest degree of perfection, served as the vehicle for deepest thought and the most eloquent expression of every feeling that pervades the human mind, nearly three hundred years ago. Yet nearly the one half of Ireland's sons, notwithstanding that country has been subject to the English Crown ever since Henry I, well nigh seven centuries, have preserved the language of their fathers in spite of ages of systematic efforts to suppress it as well as their nationality in general, and even now they carry it rather across the ocean, than learn the hated accents of the Saxon. Little more than a century after, Wales was finally conquered and annexed to England by Edward I; and six centuries have not been able to make the English language supersede the Welsh with three quarters of a million of the aborigines. In the Highlands of Scotland Gaelic is spoken by four hundred thousand clansmen, though Scotland has been under one crown with England since 1603, and though the influence of the English — or, what is nearly the same, the Lowland Scotch — had been brought to bear upon them for ages previously. But, more to the point still, the Channel Islands, a possession of the British crown since the conquest; and the only remnant of the duchy of Normandy, preserve their native French intact, as do nine tenths of a

million of „habitants“ in Lower Canada, subject to England since 1761, and surrounded by English settlers; as do the Dutch at the Cape, which became a British possession in 1806, after having been restored to the Dutch at the piece of Amiens; so do the French in Mauritius and the Spaniards in Gibraltar.

That in America the increase of the language, like that of the population has been exceptional and unexampled finds its explanation in exceptional causes. These causes are of a political and social nature. The number of inhabitants amounted to about three millions at the Establishment of the Republic, and five millions and a half at the beginning of this century, all speaking English except a limited number of Dutch and French settlers, the former of whom have been unable to preserve their nationality in that whirlpool of nations, New York. In these figures no account is, I think, taken of the Indians within the territory of the States. This number has increased sixfold during the last six decads, not so much by natural augmentation, as by immigration. Not only the Negroes, then slaves, (now, fortunately, a slave cannot breathe in the United States) whose descendants amount to nearly five millions, had to learn the speech of their masters, a constant tide of immigration also swelled the ranks of the inhabitants; and as during the first thirty years of our century this current mainly flowed from England (the number of emigrants from Great Britain amounted to 2,700,000 from 1821—1860, of whom if we follow the analogy of the British Islands five sixths spoke English) the English had become so thoroughly established, that later, when Irish and German immigrants arrived in greater numbers, they found themselves so completely surrounded by the ruling element, so isolated, that a great number with the

loss of national consciousness forgot their mother tongue. The number of immigrants arriving in the United States during the fifteen years ending in 1858 amounts to upwards of 3,900,000, or 260,000 a year, nor has this sum decreased since that period. A change however has taken place in this, that the immigrants belonging to the German nationality, which seems to be destined to play a great part in America, have been attracted towards each other, like the disintegrated portions of a liquid, and are now in a process of recombination that has already filled several of the states almost exclusively with members of their own race.

Political causes, therefore, have given to the English language its preeminence and rapid spread in America and some of her colonies, not a natural fitness to supersede the speech of other men, nor the alleged easiness of its acquisition. For the English language is not an easy one to acquire by any means; both the written and the uttered speech opposing to the learner formidable obstacles to surmount. To substantiate this proposition I will not confine myself to pointing out the difficulties that English children experience in learning some of the sounds of their mother-tongue, nor to the mutilated speech of the Negroes, those children of a larger growth, and even of their descendants; to the difficulties the foreigners of most nations experience in acquiring the „English accent“ or losing their own; but I will give a synopsis of the sounds and the orthography of the English language, and point out its peculiarities as compared with the other leading languages of Europe, particularly with German, French and Italian. If the system be contrary to some preconceived notions and different, nay opposed to systems usually employed, it has, I think, the advantage of being perspicuous and based upon facts.

NB. In the following remarks the sounds are throughout expressed by capitals, the written characters by small letters. The vowel sounds, expressed in capitals, are equivalent to their German or Italian representatives unless otherwise specified. Other peculiarities will be explained below. —

The cross in one of the first three columns indicates the non-occurrence of the sound in the language, whose name heads it, in the last that, occurring in neither, it is peculiar to English as for as the languages of civilisation are concerned.

I have classified all those vowel sounds, which occur both short and long, as simple vowels; those which are long only, as diphthongs. The latter all are composed of two simple vowels in close juxta-position, so as to produce one syllable. The primary vowels call for no comment, except that short A (2) in many words, or perhaps it would be more correct to say in many districts, is modified by a slight addition of an E sound. We find a corresponding sound dialectically in Germany, the Brunswick pronunciation of the letter a exactly resembling it. — This peculiarity is not now so prevalent in England as formerly. The same sound, when preceded by a W (u. w. qu.) [see below] becomes modified in the opposite direction in words like: what, squab etc. This is called by some grammarians „the short broad A“, evidently a contradiction.

Secondary vowel sounds I have called those, that originally are composed of two of the primary vowels, but in which these two vowels are so blended and fused together — chemically combined, as it were that their component parts can in no way be distinguished by the ear. This absolute and entire amalgamation of the sounds into one I have indicated by enclosing the component elements in brackets. In such a manner E has originated from A + I and O from A + U. I do not here refer to historical origin, in which the influence of consonants and the accent bear perhaps a greater share in the change than the modification by other vowels and assimilation, but of phonetic origin only, as relating to the organs of speech. Lastly, the ter-

tiary vowels, as I have called them, (11, and 12) appear to me to be the result of a similar fusion of the three primary vowels into one neutral sound, equally remote from either, though local pronunciation, the influence of the following and preceding consonants and the everchanging habit produce minute variations and differences in its utterance, that have caused such varieties to be treated as different and independant sounds. The neutral character of this sound is most strikingly brought under the observation of our senses, by noticing the different letters that are used to represent it, long in: *murder, learn, bird, word, fern* and short in the last syllables of: *sailor, soldier, nature, nation, altar, Arthur, vengeance, martyr*. By English grammarians it is generally called short U or O or E, according to the character employed, an evident misnomer in more senses than one, for it is as truly long in: *word or bird*, as AU is in *pound or fowl*. It ought to be stated however, that there is a tendency among the best speaker to pronounce such words more in conformity with the written character; but the actual pronunciation of the two classes of words I have given is, with the distinction of length and shortness, identical. A sub-division might be made between the accented and unaccented form of the short neutral vowel sound, but even there, I consider the sounds identical and the apparent difference explained by the evanescent character of the latter form.

In the diphthongs, always long, I have indicated the component parts by prefixing to them the simple sounds (according to my previous definition) and it remains only to be added, that with the exception of 17 and 18 the first of the two vowel sounds is not only uttered first, but also predominates considerably over the latter; it is accented as it were. 17 and 18 consist of the same elements

but in different proportions, for if in the other diphthongs the second (in 17 the first) sound forms about one fifth of the whole combination, in such words as new (18) the *I* amounts to one half. 19 may also be expressed by the same simple sounds inverted, and so indeed may 13, with this difference that in that case the latter would have to be classed with 17 and 18, as the *E* decidedly predominates.

On referring now to the columns that indicate the non-occurrence of these sounds in German, French and Italian respectively we find that, without mentioning such slight shades of difference as have already been incidentally alluded to, and which might easily be multiplied, the English language possesses 19 vowel-sounds, of which 8 (that is .421 of the whole) do not occur in French or Italian, 5 (or .263) do not occur in German and are, as far as the great languages of Europe are concerned, altogether peculiar to it, while the average for the same three languages amounts to 7 sounds or .368, more than one third. The sound marked 19 occurs in Danish (*aa*) Swedish (*â*) and some German dialects, Bavarian for instance, 17 is found in Dutch (*eeu*) and 18 in Danish (*io*).

Turning next to the Consonant-Sounds, I have arranged them on a similar principle, though their number forbade me to give a synopsis as easily comprehended at a single glance.

*Consonant Sounds.***I. Simple Consonants.****Examples**

			initial	final	Germ.	Fren.	Ital.		
Simple Consonants	Primary consonants	Vowels	1. W	will		+	+	+	+
			2. Y	yet					+
			3. R ^{II}		tar	+	+	+	+
		Semi-Liquids	4. L	land	fall				
			5. M	man	ham				
			6. N	no	on				
		Spirants	7. R	rat					
			8. S	sand	brass				
			9. Z	zeal	tubs				
		Mutes	10. V	vine	alive				
			11. J	Azu	re	+			1
			12. S	sheep	lash				
	Consonants	Secondary	13. H	hat					
			14. P	pale	lap				
			15. B	bad	mob				
			16. T	town	mat				
			17. D	down	mad				
			18. K	call	cock				
			19. G	gall	cog				
			20. F	fat	half				
			21. P	thin	path	+	+	+	+
			22. d	thou	lathe	+	+	+	+
			23. (NG)		long				
			24. DJ	gem	fledge	+	+		2
			25. TS	chat	church	+	+		2
			Total		7	6	4	(Specul.) 1 one	

II. Compounding Consonants.

Composed of 2 consonants.	1. SN	snore		+			1
	2. SK	skill	task	+			1
	3. SM	smite		+			1
	4. PS		smiths	+	+	+	+
	5. dZ		lathes	+	+	+	+
	6. DZ		buds	+	+		2
	7. BZ		tubs	+	+	+	+
	8. GZ		flags	+	+	+	+
	9. ST		wished	+	+	+	+

Compound Consonants (continued)

Examples

		initial.	final	Germ.	Fren.	Ital.	
Compo- sed of 2 conso- nants.	10. GD		flogged	+	+	+	+
	11. ND		hand	+	+	+	+
	12. LD		held	+		+	+
	13. BD		robbed	+	+	+	+
	14. MD		hemmed	+		+	+
	15. R ^h D		hard	+	+	+	+
	16. ZD		raised	+	+	+	+
	17. VD		lived	+	+	+	+
	18. ZM		chasm	+	+	+	+
	19. HW	what		+	+	+	+
	20. (NG)P		length	+	+	+	+
	21. Rp	through		+	+	+	+
	22. Dp		breadth	+		+	+
	23. (NG)D		longed	+	+	+	+
	24. (NG)Z		lungs	+	+	+	+
	25. KW	quake		+	+		2
	26. Pp		depth	+	+	+	+
	27. pM		rhythm	+	+	+	+
	28. SL	slave		+	+	+	+
	29. SW	swallow		+	+	+	+
	30. LZ		toils	+	+	+	+
	31. FS		laughs		+	+	2
	32. NT		want		+	+	2
	33. Np		month	+	+	+	+
	34. Lp		health	+	+	+	+
	35. Rp		worth	+	+	+	+
	36. NZ		cans	+	+	+	+
	37. NS		dance		+	+	2
	38. VZ		loves	+	+	+	+
	39. R ^h M		harm	+	+	+	+
	40. R ^h L		hurl	+	+	+	+
	41. R ^h F		turf	+	+	+	+
	42. R ^h V		carve	+	+	+	+
	43. R ^h Z		hears	+	+	+	+
	44. R ^h S		hearse	+	+	+	+
	45. R ^h B		herb	+	+	+	+
			Total	42	41	38	35 pecul. 5 twice 3 once

Compound Consonants (continued)

Examples

Composed
of 3 con-
sonants.

	initial.	final.	Germ.	Fren.	Ital.	
1. NGKS		shanks			+	1
2. NGKT		shanked	+	+	+	+
3. DJD		fledged	+	+	+	+
4. ZMZ		chasms	+	+	+	+
5. PST		lapsed		+	+	2
6. SKT		asked	+	+	+	+
7. NDZ		lands	+	+	+	+
8. LDZ		holds	+	+	+	+
9. R ^h DZ		herds	+	+	+	+
10. FTS		clefts		+	+	2
11. SPS		lisps	+	+	+	+
12. NTS		wants		+	+	2
13. NST		danced		+	+	2
14. DST		hadst	+	+	+	+
15. LST		killst		+	+	2
16. TST		mightst		+	+	2
17. TST		hatched	+	+	+	+
18. SKS		tasks	+	+	+	+
19. R ^h TS		hearts	+	+	+	+
20. LTS		quilts		+	+	2
21. R ^h ST		first	+	+	+	+
22. R ^h pS		hearthst	+	+	+	+
23. LZD		repulsed	+	+	+	+
24. SPT		lisped	+	+	+	+
25. KST		taxed		+	+	1
26. (NG)pS		lengths	+	+	+	+
27. MST		comest		+	+	2
28. R ^h NZ		earns	+	+	+	+
29. R ^h ND		warned	+	+	+	+
30. NDJD		sponged	+	+	+	+
31. NpS		months	+	+	+	+
32. RmP		warmth	+	+	+	+
33. DpS		widths	+	+	+	+
34. NDJ		orange	+	+	+	+
35. NTS		wench	+	+	+	+
36. LKS		hulks		+	+	2
37. R ^h KS		works	+	+	+	+
38. LpS		healths	+	+	+	+
39. MPS		limps	+	+	+	+

+ belongs to the next class.

Compound Consonants (continued)

Examples

		initial.	final.	Germ.	Fren.	Ital.	
Compo- sed of 3 conso- nants.	40. R ⁿ DJ		forge	+	+	+	+
	41. LDJ		bulge	+	+	+	+
	42. R ⁿ BZ		herbs	+	+	+	+
	43. R ⁿ PS		harps	+	+	+	+
	44. R ⁿ MZ		storms	+	+	+	+
	45. R ⁿ KT		worked	+	+	+	+
	46. R ⁿ LD		world	+	+	+	+
	47. PpS		depths	+	+	+	+
	48. LVZ		delves	+	+	+	+
	49. LMZ		helms	+	+	+	2
	50. R ⁿ VD		carved	+	+	+	+
	51. R ⁿ VZ		carves	+	+	+	+
	52. R ⁿ FS		serfs	+	+	+	2
	53. R ⁿ MD		warmed	+	+	+	+
	54. R ⁿ LZ		hurls	+	+	+	+
	55. R ⁿ PT		harped	+	+	+	+
	56. SKR	scribe		+			1
	57. SPR	sprat			+		1
	58. SKW	squall		+	+		2
	1. R ⁿ NST		learnst	+	+	+	+
	2. R ⁿ TST		searched	+	+	+	+
	3. R ⁿ DJD		urged	+	+	+	+
	4. RSTS		bursts	+	+	+	+
	5. LDJD		bulged	+	+	+	+
	6. NTST		crunched	+	+	+	+
	7. SKST		askest	+	+	+	+
	8. LPST		helpst	+	+	+	+
	9. NTST		pant'st	+	+	+	2
Total				52	64	64	50 pecul. 13 twice 4 once.

In this synopsis of the consonant sounds I have indicated the occurrence of a sound as initial or final only, or in both positions by the examples added; every other case is, of course, noticed among the compound sounds. — Like the vowel-sounds I have divided the consonants into

simple and compound, classing under the former all those that the ear can not dissect into their component parts. Of these „which I have called primary consonants“ first stand the semivowels to which I give this name, not because the same letters (w, y) with two of them serve sometimes to express a vowel, sometimes a consonant; but because their sounds really have a close affinity for vowels. W closely resembles a short U, and when followed by h, the H precedes it in pronunciation. It has no equivalent in the great European languages. Y is so nearly akin to the German J and peculiar sounds in French (*caillon*) and Italian (*signer*) that I have not treated it as a peculiar letter R^{II} is a soft, guttural R, which at the close of a word so strongly resembles long A, that, were rhymes judged by the ear only such a combination as: „Jeremiah, blow the fire“ would cease to be ridiculous. To draw a broad distinction R^{II}, a guttural, is used after the vowel of the syllable of which it forms part, R, a lingual, classed, among the liquids, precedes it. The liquids call for no remark. Among the spirants S represents the sharp, Z the soft hissing sound which the letters s and z respectively express in French also, and for both of which the German and Italian language employs one sign-s-only. V is the same in French and Italian. J is a rare sound in English, only occurring between two vowels, represented in French by g before i and e. S is expressed by sch in German and ch in French; perhaps it belongs to the secondary consonants, of which I now, as the mutes may be passed over in silence, shall say a few words. They are usually called aspirates, and considered as having been produced by the addition of the sound H to S, B or P, T and D respectively, while (Ng) is treated as a compound letter. This is Grimms view. Modern English grammarians on the other hand (Latham e. g.)

treat them as simple sounds, such as for the sake of distinction I have called primary. I venture to suggest a theory for their phonetic origin, similar to that which I have brought forward with regard to secondary and tertiary vowels; namely, that they have been produced by to close an amalgamation of their component parts (whether h is one of them or not) that a really new sound is the result, differing in all its characteristics from either of its elements. I am confirmed in my opinion by the widely diverging orthography of those sounds in the different languages in which they occur. (I have used a new character for the one, the Anglo-Saxon ones for two others, and bracketed what are generally considered the component parts of the fourth while F required no new sign.) þ in: *thin, through* (not existing in French, German or Italian) corresponds to the Greek ϑ, the Spanish z and c before i and e; the Polish c z, and the Hungarian cs; while S with its close relation to D, that children and foreigners so often substitute for it, is expressed both in Danish and Dutch, where its occurrence is frequent enough, by d (between two vowels). Ng is in most languages written ng and considered to be a compound of the vowels those letters represent; this view is however erroneous, as N is produced by contact of the tongue with the teeth or upper gum, while (NG) in *long* is entirely originated by palate and throat. This sound was expressed in Greek by the letter γ before another γ. α. χ. ξ. not by double γ, as frequently stated, the second letter keeping its own sound. In Greek, German or Italian it does not occur final as it does in English.

Besides noticing that of the double consonants DJ is the Italian g before E and I and that this sound does not occur in French or German, that TS also of common occurrence in Italian (ci) and written in German tsch, is not

to be found in French either, there remains little to be said, after the remarks made on the Simple Consonants, about the compound sounds, whether formed by double, treble or quadruple combination, except that I might have increased the list materially by adding such endings as: tle, ntle, rtle, dle, cle, sle, zle, stile, mble, ndle, cre, gle, fle, ble etc., which although monosyllabic in theory, in reality always take the short neutral vowel sound 12 (v. s.) not indeed after the last consonant but before it. I have also excluded several treble and quadruple consonant combinations such as shown in the words *heldst*, *heardst*, that belong to the second person singular of the verb, a form now rarely used except in religious addresses and in poetry, and then the words are pronounced as dissyllables: *foundest*, *heldest*; nor have I noticed some rare consonant combinations used only in scientific terms derived from classic languages, as FT (initial), in *phthisis* SKL etc. I have taken no notice of consonant combinations that are found only between two vowels, because their sound is necessarily divided, and lastly I have left out all those consonant combinations that are of not unfrequent occurrence in other languages. As the first glance it might appear, as if many of the compound consonant sounds were of common occurrence, in German particularly, but closer examination convinces us that our eye is misled by the orthography. The German words: *tanz*, *Ganz*, *land's*, *Kant's* are pronounced with the same ending sound TS, while the four English words: *lands*, *pans*, *pants*, *pence* have four distinctly different sounds DZ, Z, TS and S respectively as termination.

On summarising now the results obtained by a comparison of the English consonant sounds with those of the French German and Italian languages we find that of the

simple consonants 1, of the double 4 of the treble and quadruple 3 occur only in two of these languages, 7 double and 13 treble combinations are wanting in 2 of them, and that 4 single 37 double and 50 treble and quadruple combinations, in the English language, in as far as these tongues are concerned, are altogether peculiar to it, which with the previously mentioned 5 vowels gives a total of 96 altogether peculiar to the English language 106 not existing in German, 116 wanting in Italian and 119 in French. These results are sufficiently startling to make comment superfluous, but it remains still to be remarked that in addition many of the consonants and some of the combinations, that are found in other languages do not in them occur both as initials and finals, as they do in English, that some of the consonant-combinations between two vowels, such as *finger*, where the last syllable begins with a distinct *G* sound in addition to (*Ng*) are peculiar to English, and lastly, that there is a very great prevalence of consonant sounds, simple and compound, after the vowel, which are not met with in that position elsewhere.

Another difficulty, not equal certainly to that of the sounds, yet perplexing enough at times, not only to the foreigner or ignorant native, but even to an educated Englishman, is the accentuation. — Generally speaking, in German the accent rests on the stem, in Italian it is governed by rhythmical considerations, in French equally divided over all the syllables of a word, in English it is drawn back to the beginning. Originally the same rule obtained in English as in German, and does so still with regard to Saxon words; but those words do not increase in number, and in all the elements adopted from foreign tongues, the accent, if employed correctly at first, soon becomes corrupted, while the words in which that process has not

yet taken place create additional confusion. The old maxim, that the tone cannot rest farther back from the end of the word than the antepenultimate, seems to be set utterly at defiance and orthoëpical treatises contain long arrays of words accented on the last syllable but three and even on the last but four. This seeming anomaly is explained by the rapid utterance with which the syllables following are blurred over as it were, and which causes them to occupy in being pronounced the same time only, that is usually employed for two syllables; or in other cases there is a secondary accent nearer the end of the word. In the following words, for instance, that have the accent on the last syllable but three, the vowel sound of the antepenultimate is almost silent: *January, literary, exemplary, curiously, accuracy, particularise, corroborative, contemporary*, while in *characterise* and similar words the penultimate is shortened. Of polysyllables accented on the first some shorten the vowel sounds of two of their syllables to such an extent, as to be practically reduced to trissyllables; such are: *customarily, dilatoriness, solitarily, necessarily*, in which the vowels of the second and fourth syllables are so treated; while others have a secondary accent on the penultimate as: *masticatory, lachrymatory, laboratory* etc. This explains the difficulty but does not diminish it, while the discrepancy of the highest authorities on the accent of a considerable number of words of this nature serves greatly to augment it. Of words of doubtful accentuation the most important are verbs and verbal derivatives, because the tendency of the English language to draw the accent back to the beginning of a word is counteracted to some extent by the fundamental rule that verbs have the accent at the end (the root-syllable in Saxon being either the ultimate or the penultimate) and this double action has

caused a doubtful condition with many verbs derived from classical sources. The accentuation of the following among numerous others is doubtful: *confiscate*, *contemplate*, *enervate*, *extirpate*, *acceptable*, *commendable*, *disputable*. The peculiarity of English accentuation exercises an especially unfavourable influence on a very great number of words that are either borrowed from the Latin or Greek unchanged and also on still greater number of derivatives from such words. The impression produced upon a continental, unaccustomed to hear English spoken, when hearing such words as *sénator*, *órator*, *mémorial*, *history*, *bases*, *pléthora*, *antémone* etc., with the indistinct and hurried pronunciation of the final syllable is, that they are utterly strange to him, although he may write the word with almost the same letters in his native tongue. I cannot conclude my remarks on accent, without alluding to that most important class of words, containing more than one hundred, which, although composed of absolutely the same sounds, become different parts of speech by different accentuation, being verbs, if accented on the ultimate, nouns or adjectives if not. I can only instance a few examples: *absént* (adjective) *absént* (verb) *próduce* (noun) *prodúce* (verb) *sónsort* (noun) *consórt* (verb).

Having thus at some length treated of the difficulties of an organic nature, that oppose the acquisition of the language even if constantly conversing with natives, or having the best masters, I must now turn to the artificial difficulties retarding and often preventing success in obtaining a mastership over the language without those auxiliaries. I allude to the extremely irregular, intricate and capricious orthography. I believe I am within the mark in saying, there is not in England, in the upper and middle classes, one person in a hundred, who can spell correctly

all the words of his own language; when I say, all the words, I mean all the words in daily use. Children at school spend a considerable portion of their time in „learning spellings“ and remain most lamentably insufficient, and foreigners, who have acquired the language from books often surpass educated Englishmen, in what is justly considered an accomplishment. In most grammars, whether written for foreigners or natives, the reader is informed that the letter *a* has 3, 4 or 5 sounds, the letter *e* 3 sounds etc.; but that arrangement does not convey a just notion of the difficulties to be encountered, and I shall therefore give a comprehensive view of the different ways in which the simple and compound sounds enumerated in the previously given synopsis are expressed by letters.

Referring first to the vowel sounds and taking them in the same order we find that these sounds are expressed in the following manner:

NB. I have taken no notice of any consonants here, though some of them exercise a great influence e. g. *r* and *l*.

Sounds	Letters by which expressed with instances.	Nb of ways.
A long	a, father; aw, law; au launch; aa, bazaar; e, clerk	5
A short	a, hat; ai, plait	2
I long	i, invalid; ee, thee; ea, thea; *e-e here; ie believe; eo, people; ey, key; uoi, tur- quois; oe, sub poena; ae, aphaeresis; e, me; ei, receive.	12
I short	i, hit; ui, biscuit; u, busy; y, hymn; o, women; ey attorney; ie, cronies	7
U long	o, do; oo, boon; ou group; o-a, lose; wo, two; oe, shoe	6
U short	u, pull; ou, could; oo, good	3

*) This indicates the following of a silent *e* in the next syllable.

Sounds.	Letters which express them and instances	No. of ways.
E long	a, vague; ey obey; ai, again; ay, clay; ei, eight; ea, great; a-e, state; ao, gaol; au, gauge	9
E short	e, hen; ai, said; ea, bread; eo, leopard; a, Thames; ay, says; ue, guest.	7
O long	o-e, note; oa, boat; oe, sloe; ow, know; ou, though.	5
O short	o, not	1
Neutral Vowel (AJU)	u, murder; e, fern; ea, learn; i, bird; o, word; ou scourge	6
long.	accented: u, but; o, dove; ou, rough.	
Neutral Vowel (AJU) short.	unaccented: a, altar; e, alter; i, cousin; o, actor; u, sulphur; oa, cupboard; a-e, advantage; i-e, subtle; eo, surgeon; ei, sovereign; our, parlour etc.	14
EA	a-e, bare; ea, bear; e, there; ai, hair; ei heir	5
AI	i, title; ai, aisle; ie, die; y, ally; uy, buy; oi, choir; ui guile	7
AU	ou, house; ow, owl	2
OI	oi, foil; oy, boy; uoy, buoy	3
IUP	u, thruth; u-e, use; ou, through; ue, true; eau, beauty; oeu, manoeuvre; ui, suit; eu, rheumatism.	7
IU ^{II}	ew, new; iew, view; ieu, lieu.	3
AO	oa, broad; aw, raw; au haul; ou, bought; and a (before r et e) war, fall.	5
19.		109

Thus we learn that the 19 vowel-sounds can be expressed by 109 different letters, or combinations of letters, in which number no account is taken of silent letters (to any extent), nor of any consonants whatever, as both consonants and silent letters will be spoken of presently. This gives an average of 5.736 methods of expressing each vowel sound, if long and short vowels are treated as altogether distinct; but if they are considered as really one sound, the

average amounts to 9.083 and to 12.83 for the six simple vowel-sounds alone.

In turning next to the consonants, I have taken no notice of their gemination, which exists in most languages and which where it has any effect, influences the quantity of the preceding consonant rather. (This remark applies also to the table of consonant-sounds.) We find then, that L, M, K, P, B, D, G, H, W are never expressed by any but their proper letters, that (Ng) is written ng final only, as the combination ng within the word reads (Ng) g. e. *g longer*. Ng, R^{II}, þ, Ð, S, J though simple sounds, have no separate simple signs to express them; R and R^{II}, are expressed by the same letter r, a circumstance of not much importance, if it be taken into consideration that the pronunciation of that letter as a guttural or a lingual is to a great extent, not only in England, but elsewhere also, a matter of individual habit of fashion, and of local custom. þ and Ð also are expressed by the same combination; and the learner finds it difficult to remember the due sound of th in different words. I is expressed by z and s before u, and S is written: sh, *sheep*; su, *sure*; ti, *nation*; ci, *social*. (2) (4)

The following consonant-sounds are expressed in more ways than one:

S	s, sat; c, cell	2
Z	z, zeal; s, lease	2
F	f, fat; ph, philosophy; gh, enough	3
T	t, trot; d, fetched: th, Thames	3
K	{ k, king; c, cat; ck, cock; qu, casque	
	{ ch, christian.	5
Y	y, yet; i, million	2
DJ	g, gem; j, jewel; dg, fudge.	3

*) With the combinations of consonants I have noticed anomalous ways of spelling a sound, even if they be the only ones in use. The intervention of the silent e in writing is not noticed.

SK	sk, skull; sc, scall; sch, school	3
dZ	ths, lathes	
GZ	gs, flags	
ST	shd, wished	
ZD	zd, buzzed; sd, raised	2
ZM	sm, chasm	
HW	wh, what	
(NG)Z	ngs, lungs	
(NG)KT	nk, thanked	
KW	qu, quaker	
LZ	ls, toils	
FS	ghs, laughs; fs, chiefs; phs, triumphs	3
NZ	ns cans	
VZ	vs loves	
DJD	gd, engaged; dgd, dodged	2
TST	chd, reached; tchd, fetched	2
SKS	sks, tasks; ques, casques	2
ZMZ	sms, chasms	
NST	nst, canst; ncd, danced	2
NDZ	LDZ, RDZ, RBZ, LMZ, etc. have s as final	

Sounds	Letters	Instance.
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LZD	lsd:	repulsed;
SPT	spd:	liped;
KST	xd:	laxed
NDJD	ngd:	sponged
NTS	nch:	wench
NDJ	nge:	orange
RDJ	rge:	urge
LBG;	lge:	bulge
RKT	rkd:	worked
NTST	nchd:	crunched
RTST	rchd:	searched
RDGD	rgd:	urged
LDGD	lgd:	bulged.

Before summing up I ought to add the remark, that the letters c, q, j, x, occurring in the English Alphabet are redundant, as c is either an equivalent of K as in *cock*, or of S as in *cell* or in conjunction with h expresses sometimes the sound TS as *church*, sometimes a K, as *Christ*; q is alirays K, j DJ, and x, KS. In the compound conso-

nants I have not repeated any irregularities resulting of necessity from an anomalous way of expressing the simple consonant, nor in those consisting of combinations of three and four consonants, any irregularity that is the necessary result of a previous irregularity in the method of expressing the compounds consisting of two consonants. —

We find then that

9	{ simple consonants are correctly represented by }	9 signs
6	{ are unrepresented except by combination , two of which have 4 super- fluous combinations }	6
6	are expressed by	19
2	" And there are "superfluous	1
23	Average: 2 nearly.	13

This ratio, I think, would have remained about unaltered, if all the compound consonant sounds had been taken in, the majority of which are omitted in the list of sounds. Many of the compound sounds written down, are only represented by one group of letters. It has to be well observed, that this group always forms an anomalous way of expressing the sounds.

From the list of sounds we arrive at the remark that the English language exceeds others in the abundance of its (final) consonant combinations, while the averages we have drawn, show that the vowels have by far the most numerous deviations in their orthography.

Mention remains still to be made of the silent letters as a numerous and important part of the written language. Like dried up riverbeds they show, where streams of living water once were wont to flow; most important they are for the study of etymology, as a means of distinction, between

different words of equal sound, so common in English, but a sad stumbling block to the illiterate and the student.

Many of the vowel combinations, which I have previously enumerated, contain examples of silent letters such as o in *people*; e and u are frequently silent but in that case generally affect the immediately preceding consonant as *guide*, *quest*, where the sound of G is by those means expressed, though other words have the same sound even before E and I without the u, as *get* *girdle*; while *scourge*, *surgeon* intimate the J sound by the addition of e, the c (S) is similarly affected by e, as *truce*. Such combinations as gu, ge, ce, though not consisting of consonant-signs might perhaps very properly be classed under the consonants, as they are combinations for producing a single consonant sound. In the same manner the silent e at the end of words affects the preceding vowel, lengthens it in O and changes it into a diphthong in other cases, a + e = EA *fate*; i + e = AI, *life*; o + e = U, *move*; u + e = IU, *use*.

Table of silent consonants.

l	in	could, calf, chalk, alms etc.
n	„	autumn, hymn, kiln etc.
s	„	aisle, viscount, etc.
p	„	psalm, empty, raspberry (before S. T. B.)
b	„	climb, doubt, (after M before T.)
k	„	knave, knock (before N.)
g	„	gnat, sing (before N.)
h	„	heir, hour, rhyme, Sarah.
w	„	wrap, sword (before R.)
c	„	scent, indict (before T and after S.)
ch	„	drachm, yacht.
gh	„	high, through, ought.

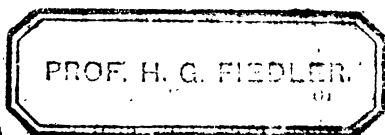
All these silent letters; ch alone excepted, are of very common occurrence, gh perhaps most so.

I have thus pointed out some of the leading difficulties in the spoken and written language of England, which will always militate strongly against its easy acquisition and rapid extension, especially as the anomalies pointed out are by no means of rare occurrence, but in many instances form the rule. I have drawn attention to the qualitatively and quantitatively equally important irregularities in the vowel and consonant sounds, the peculiarities of the accentuation and the many and strangely inconsistent methods of expressing these sounds. We arrive then at the conclusion that the English language does not owe the undoubted preëminence, which it at present enjoys among the languages of the world, and the numerical superiority of the people that employ it, either to a natural tendency to supplant other civilised languages with which it comes in contact, or to its alleged easiness and simplicity; nay, we might even say, and not without cause, that the greater development it has obtained in the simplification of its grammar is the commencement of its dissolution, the beginning of the end; and that its extraordinary tendency to degenerate into slang of every kind is the foreshadowing of its approaching dismemberment. We find the slang of the School and the slang of the Turf, slang military and slang naval, slang mercantile and manufacturing, and last but not least the slang of the lower orders in general and of the dangerous classes in particular. I might speak of the slang of the Yankee with its numerous subdivisions, perhaps corresponding in kind to, but individually differing from, the slang of Great Britain, the slang of the Indian, the Australian, the settler on the Cape.

I might advert to the great want of education among the lower classes, when even now nearly 40 per cent. of the adult population are unable to write and 25 to read, as a material obstacle to the spread of the language, as

emigrants here belong as a rule to the lowest stratum of society, and might reply, if reminded of the great improvement that in late years have been effected in that particular; that at present there is but little prospect of making education compulsory and that, unless that be done, it can never become general, and just those portions of the community will be bereft of its blessings, that most require them. But passing over those subjects with the most cursory notice, I must say a few words on the probable aspect of the British and American Empires in the future and the progressive political, commercial and social importance of those nations.

The English are the masters of the Sea. True — but so have others been before them, and so may others be after them. The men of Tyre and Sidon who „went down to the sea in ships” and their still more powerful colonists, the Carthaginians, have been the masters of the Sea; yet their language is lost utterly and irrevocably. The Vikings or Norsemen were very kings of the ocean, as their name implies, but where is now their speech? The Italian Republics, the Hanse towns, the Spaniards and the Dutch have successively been the rulers of the main, without powerfully affecting the languages of Europe; Britannia rules the waves to day, but will her language exercise a greater influence, and will she rule them tomorrow?



*W. Münch für 2^{te} Charakteristik
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